

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/14815

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C01B15/10 C11D17/00 C11D3/39

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C01B C11D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, CHEM ABS Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2002/127168 A1 (HESSBERGER WALDEMAR ET AL) 12 September 2002 (2002-09-12) paragraph '0028!; claims	1-11
Y	GB 1 494 543 A (KAO CORP) 7 December 1977 (1977-12-07) cited in the application page 1, line 68 - line 82 page 2, line 4 - line 46 page 2, line 119 - line 124 table 1	1-11
Y	EP 0 623 553 A (MITSUBISHI GAS CHEMICAL CO) 9 November 1994 (1994-11-09) claims; examples	1-11
	-/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 April 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

21/04/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Van der Poel, W

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/14815

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 193 977 A (KIKUCHI MINORU ET AL) 18 March 1980 (1980-03-18) the whole document -----	1-11
X	US 3 953 350 A (NISHIMURA MASAOKI ET AL) 27 April 1976 (1976-04-27) the whole document -----	1-11
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 013, no. 187 (C-592), 2 May 1989 (1989-05-02) & JP 01 014103 A (TOKAI DENKA KOGYO KK), 18 January 1989 (1989-01-18) abstract -----	1-11
X	EP 0 884 276 A (MITSUBISHI GAS CHEMICAL CO) 16 December 1998 (1998-12-16) example 1 -----	1-11
A	EP 0 567 140 A (KAO CORP ;NIPPON PEROXIDE CO LTD (JP)) 27 October 1993 (1993-10-27) claims; examples -----	1-11
A	EP 0 459 625 A (MITSUBISHI GAS CHEMICAL CO) 4 December 1991 (1991-12-04) claims; examples -----	1-11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 03/14815

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Present claims 1-11 relate to a product, the method of preparation of that product and its used, defined (inter alia) by reference to the following parameter:

P1: the coated sodium percarbonate being fizzy to such an extent that 2g of the coated particles dissolved in 50 ml of water at 20°C generate more than 0.4 ml of gas after 2 min.

The use of these parameters in the present context is considered to lead to a lack of clarity within the meaning of Article 84 EPC. It is impossible to compare the parameters the applicant has chosen to employ with what is set out in the prior art. The lack of clarity is such as to render a meaningful complete search impossible. Consequently, the search has been restricted to:

Coated percarbonate products and methods for making them which appear to exhibit a certain effervescence (fizziness) and coated percarbonate products which are prepared according to the method of claims 6-9.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/14815

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2002127168	A1	12-09-2002	DE 10065953 A1 BR 0116796 A CA 2432559 A1 WO 02051745 A2 EP 1345845 A2	04-07-2002 03-02-2004 04-07-2002 04-07-2002 24-09-2003
GB 1494543	A	07-12-1977	JP 936325 C JP 50123580 A JP 53013355 B CA 1052505 A1 DE 2510184 A1 ES 435780 A1 FR 2264866 A1 US 4008167 A	12-12-1978 29-09-1975 09-05-1978 17-04-1979 25-09-1975 01-07-1977 17-10-1975 15-02-1977
EP 0623553	A	09-11-1994	DE 69404543 D1 DE 69404543 T2 EP 0623553 A1 JP 3305111 B2 JP 7017710 A US 5462804 A JP 3305112 B2 JP 7017703 A JP 3314526 B2 JP 7069606 A	04-09-1997 04-12-1997 09-11-1994 22-07-2002 20-01-1995 31-10-1995 22-07-2002 20-01-1995 12-08-2002 14-03-1995
US 4193977	A	18-03-1980	JP 1282441 C JP 54043199 A JP 60006881 B DE 2839430 A1 FR 2402624 A1 GB 2004260 A , B	27-09-1985 05-04-1979 21-02-1985 22-03-1979 06-04-1979 28-03-1979
US 3953350	A	27-04-1976	JP 50070286 A CA 1043054 A1 DE 2450524 A1 ES 431362 A1 FR 2249164 A1	11-06-1975 28-11-1978 07-05-1975 16-02-1977 23-05-1975
JP 01014103	A	18-01-1989	JP 2566782 B2	25-12-1996
EP 0884276	A	16-12-1998	DE 69818547 D1 EP 0884276 A1 JP 11060214 A	06-11-2003 16-12-1998 02-03-1999
EP 0567140	A	27-10-1993	DE 69305220 D1 DE 69305220 T2 EP 0567140 A1 ES 2092718 T3 JP 2608238 B2 JP 6040709 A US 5332518 A	14-11-1996 20-03-1997 27-10-1993 01-12-1996 07-05-1997 15-02-1994 26-07-1994
EP 0459625	A	04-12-1991	JP 2969794 B2 JP 4031308 A DE 69104124 D1 DE 69104124 T2 EP 0459625 A1	02-11-1999 03-02-1992 27-10-1994 20-04-1995 04-12-1991

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/14815

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0459625	A	ES 2064907 T3 KR 9306689 B1	01-02-1995 22-07-1993